THROWING RICE INTO THE MIX MAKES ESPRESSO BROWNIES RICH {page 13}

VANCOUVER'S PUNK SCENE HITS THE SCREEN BLOODIED BUT UNBOWED {page 9}

SELLING CHEAP CIGARETTES FOR SHOT AT TREATY RIGHTS {page 2}

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News worth sharing.

Rapid transit: 25¢ a ride

Council ups the cost of cash fare to $2.65 from $2.40 to pay for rapid transit line

In a surprise move, Winnipeg City Council voted yesterday to increase the cost of a transit ride 25 cents, up from the proposed five-cent hike.

St. Norbert Coun. Justin Swandel tabled a motion to increase the fare to pay for the costs of rapid transit. As part of the amendments to the Master Transportation Plan presented to council yesterday, the Executive Policy Committee wanted the rapid transit corridor to reach the University of Manitoba from downtown by 2016.

That will require additional money the city doesn't have.

Coun. Jenny Gerbasi said the city is gouging transit riders with the increase.

"The burden of the costs (associated with rapid transit) is being placed on riders."

Gerbasi argued consultation with Winnipeg Transit and the province should have taken place prior to the additional 20-cent increase.

"There needs to be more thought when we make new policy change," she said.

Coun. Russ Wyatt supported the increase and said without the necessary funds for rapid transit, Winnipeg would be left with yet another half-finished project.

"Shouldn't the transit users contribute a little bit of the cost?" Wyatt asked.

He also said the increase would put Winnipeg in line with the national average for transit fares.

Donna Rusnak, a Winnipeg transit user, disagrees with the fare increase.

"People have a hard enough time paying for the bus as is."

Bus fares will go up five cents on Jan. 1, 2012. On June 1, 2012, they will go up an additional 20 cents.

Couns. Jeff Browaty, Paula Havixbeck, Thomas Steen, Swandel, Dan Vandal, Wyatt, and Grant Nordman supported the increase, as did Mayor Sam Katz.

Couns. Ross Eadie, Gerbasi, John Orlikow, Mike Pagtakhan, Devi Sharma and Harvey Smith voted against the increase.

ASHLEY GABOURY/WITH FILES FROM ELISHA DACEY

ASHLEY GABOURY/METRO

▶ Transit users will see a large hike in fares next year.

What else happened at city council?

Council passed a ban on planting ash trees in response to the threat of Emerald Ash Borer, an invasive insect species that kills ash trees.

Council approved funding for CentureVenture Development Corporation through the transfer of up to $300,000 annually from 2011-13 out of the permit reserve fund.

Mayor Sam Katz said he has no intentions of giving Occupy Winnipeg participants the boot from Memorial Park, stating the land is under provincial jurisdiction.

Council passed the Master Transit Plan. ASHLEY GABOURY

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1 news

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In tomorrow's Metro:

Close encounters of the white-furred kind: Managing editor Elisha Dacey explains Churchill's polar-bear predicament.

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Garage. Damage

▶ There was about $40,000 damage to this garage after it went up in flames yesterday morning.

JENNA CUMBERS/FOR METRO

Arson task force investigating fire

Winnipeg Police said the garage, in the 700 block of Hoskin Avenue, went up in smoke at about 3 a.m. The vehicle inside was also torched. There were no reports of any injuries. The arson task force is investigating.

Cigs seized from smoke shop

Reserve says it wants to be prosecuted so it can bring treaty-status rights to court
Province cannot ignore sale of illegal cigarettes: Premier
Cartons on market for $40

ELISHA DACEY
@METRONEWS.CA

RCMP and the special investigations unit of the Manitoba government seized almost 90,000 cigarettes from the Dakota Chundee Smoke Shop Tuesday afternoon, located near Pipestone, Man.

Government officials said the cigarettes were federally stamped under the Excise Act of 2001 but are not marked for sale in Manitoba.

The move came as no surprise as the province cannot ignore a shop selling illegal cigarettes, said Premier Greg Selinger.

Dakota Plains Chief Orville Smoke said they welcomed the seizure, as they can now legally challenge the federal and provincial government to be officially recognized as Dakota First Nations and be granted treaty status.

Smoke said years of getting nowhere led them to this point, noting they did not want to break the law but felt they had no other options.

In the meantime, the shop opened right back up yesterday and was again selling the cigarettes on the cheap, with one area councillor saying they didn't keep all their cigarettes stocked at one location.

FILES FROM THE CANADIAN PRESS

$40
The shop has been selling tobacco products supplied by Mohawk distributors in Quebec for about $40 a carton — well below the usual $98 price tag.

Dakota claims

- Dakota chiefs believe their status in Canada is recognized by a British treaty to protect Canadian borders from American incursions during the War of 1812.
- The federal government has rejected that claim in court and says the Dakota don't have the same treaty rights as other First Nations in Canada.

RCMP cop arrested for drunk driving

An RCMP officer with more than 10 years on the force has been charged with drunk driving.

RCMP said Const. Tracey Santo, 32, was driving near the city of Winnipeg when she was observed driving erratically. She was stopped on the Perimeter Highway near Summit Road, where she was arrested for impaired driving.

Const. Santo was released on a promise to appear and has been placed on administrative duties. She will be subject to an internal investigation.

ELISHA DACEY

Watch out for thin ice

The Winnipeg Police Service is again warning 'Peggers to be aware of thin ice. The ice is forming around retention ponds and river banks. "As the temperature has now dropped below zero, thin ice is forming ... and extreme caution should be used when near any open water," said police.

ELISHA DACEY

Five Bombers named to all-star team

The Canadian Football League unveiled the 2011 CFL all-stars today and five Winnipeg Blue Bombers were named to the squad.

Offensive lineman Brendon LaBatte, defensive end Odell Willis, defensive backs Jonathan Hefney and Jovon Johnson as well as safety Ian Logan were selected.

They were chosen to be part of the all-star team by fans, members of the Football Reporters of Canada and CFL head coaches.

ELISHA DACEY

Occupying a generation

Expert calls movement that brought together unionists, students and other groups unprecedented in recent memory Everyone wondering how long it can survive after protesters hauled away from worldwide sites

The Occupy protest is the most important democratic social movement of the last two generations and demonstrators who have taken over parks and other public spaces should be left alone, an expert in social movements says.

As civic authorities across Canada and the U.S. move to end the various occupations, Vincent Mosco, professor emeritus of sociology at Queen's University, says the "extraordinary" movement had created a rarely seen coalition.

"It's everywhere — not just in large cities, but in small towns," Mosco said.

Back in the 1970s, he said, construction workers beat up anti-war students in the streets of New York City. Now, the workers go with their own protest signs and join the Occupy Wall Street demonstration in the city's Zuccotti Park.

Earlier this week, authorities cleared the Manhattan plaza, a scene that's been playing out around the world over the past few days.

But Mosco believes the movement would survive because of its significance, even if protesters end up evicted from their last remaining strongholds.

No matter what happens, Mosco said they have already made people pay attention to issues of wealth distribution and democracy.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

KATIE TURNER/METRO

Occupy Calgary

The city's bylaw boss says an early-morning tent fire in Olympic Plaza that sent two Occupy Calgary demonstrators to hospital "validates what we've been saying all along."

"There's a safety issue here and it's of grave concern to us, especially with the weather forecast," said Bill Bruce, the director of Animal and Bylaw Services.

METRO

PHYLICIA TORREVILLAS/METRO FILE

Occupy Vancouver

The City of Vancouver changed its game plan yesterday and now wants the Occupy encampment outside the Vancouver Art Gallery removed for "trespassing."

Lawyer Ben Parkin told B.C. Supreme Court Justice Anne MacKenzie the city is now seeking a court injunction on the grounds that the occupation is in breach of the land regulation bylaw.

METRO

Occupy Regina

Police and city bylaw officials have cleared the last remaining tents from the Occupy Regina protest site.

The city says that police went to Victoria Park in downtown Regina late Tuesday and found two people in the park. They also discovered nine tents.

Both people were given tickets, bringing the total to nine tickets issued since Monday.

Police and city staff went back to the park at 5 a.m. and found the tents empty and the site abandoned.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Occupy Seattle

An 84-year-old woman in Seattle has quickly become a face of the national Occupy Wall Street movement after she was hit with pepper spray during a march after police told the group they had to move.

"They picked up their bicycles and started shoving them at us and confining us in a very small place and they started to pepper spray," she said.

Six people were arrested, but not the woman.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Vegas protesters keep the peace despite hard times

There are no police in riot gear here, no bulldozers levelling protest encampments.

In a city that celebrates behaving badly, Occupy Las Vegas protesters are touting civil obedience and government co-operation as anti-Wall Street efforts elsewhere have turned to violence and police confrontations.

Las Vegas demonstrators have sought approval from government leaders and police before protesting or setting up a camp site. They called off a protest during President Barack Obama's visit to Las Vegas last month because police asked them to do so. And they have created a system of protest rules that ban, among other things, lawbreaking and hate signs.

The good behaviour in Las Vegas and other Occupy efforts across Nevada is even more noteworthy because Nevadans may have the most cause to rage against the machine. The state tops the U.S. in foreclosures and unemployment, and entire neighbourhoods have been overtaken by vacant homes and storefronts.

But while protesters in other cities such as Oakland, California and Portland, Ore., riot and rage, the Vegas group is hosting a series of free foreclosure-mediation workshops for homeowners who are underwater on their mortgages.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

JULIE JACOBSON/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

▶ Earla Penn came from LaPush, Wash., to join the Occupy Las Vegas protesters at their camp site Tuesday.

Unknown future

- It's unclear whether the peace pushers will be able to tame the more aggressive voices within the Occupy movement in Las Vegas.
- A local militant group tried last week to convince the protesters in the city to arm themselves.
- Others have simply urged organizers to take a more forceful stand and stop being so darn nice.

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Taser. Phone

▶ Toronto's major crime unit, Canada's Border Services Agency and the Toronto Police Service's guns and gangs unit display seized stun guns that look like cellphones along with many other weapons and guns in Toronto yesterday.

NATHAN DENETTE/THE CANADIAN PRESS

Law enforcement happens upon incognito arms

Toronto police have uncovered a cache of weapons worthy of a spy novel. Yesterday officers showed off dozens of stun guns — which look like thick cellphones with tiny prongs at one end — that were seized by police in a raid last week, along with boxes of fake lipsticks and lighters that spray tear gas. The weapons stash also included a TEC-9 submachine gun, a Cobra nine-millimetre handgun, several butterfly knives and brass knuckles.

Vigilante crime fighters hang up their capes

Pedophile-busting superheroes scolded by Mounties after videos go viral

MATT KIELTYKA
@METRONEWS.CA
METRO CANADA IN VANCOUVER

Four men have promised to put aside their brief stint as crime fighters after videos of their costumed adventures caught the eye of RCMP.

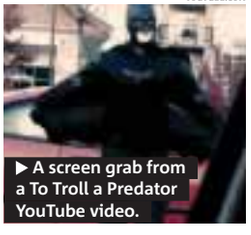
The vigilante justice came in the form of To Troll a Predator, a series of YouTube videos where the men — two teenagers, an 18-year-old and a 20-year-old — pose as a 15-year-old girl on dating sites and agree to meet up with older men in a public location.

When the contact arrives, the men — armed with a camera — spring into action dressed as Batman and the Flash, accuse them of being pedophiles and publicly shame them.

As amusing as the viral videos may be, RCMP were less than thrilled.

"This activity is not something the RCMP would condone or recommend," said spokesperson Cpl. Tammy Hollingsworth in a written statement. "Unfortunately, these youths and men didn't consider the potential consequences of their actions, or the impact to their personal safety or the safety of other youths and the community."

YOUTUBE.COM



▶ A screen grab from a To Troll a Predator YouTube video.

RCMP say the "superheroes" have been contacted by police and have agreed to stop their escapades.

The RCMP's integrated child exploitation unit is now involved, though it's not known whether the alleged predators in the videos are being investigated.

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Two arrested after cocaine found at home

RCMP say they raided a home in Portage la Prairie and came up with 680 grams of cocaine.

The raid, which happened on Sunday, fetched cocaine worth about $54,000 on the street.

Quinn Marie Drain, 31, and Gilbert Mousseau, 31, were arrested and charged with possession of a controlled substance for the purpose of trafficking.

METRO

New RCMP chief to tackle harassment

ADRIAN WYLD/THE CANADIAN PRESS

Incoming RCMP commissioner Bob Paulson steps into his new job with a daunting task — get to the bottom of harassment within the national police force.

Public Safety Minister Vic Toews introduced the veteran Mountie to media yesterday and immediately announced that the Commission for Public Complaints Against the RCMP will investigate the issue that has dogged the force for years.

The new commissioner endorsed the move wholeheartedly and said stamping out harassment will be the first item on his plate.

"This does not represent the force that I joined and this condition cannot stand."
BOB PAULSON, INCOMING RCMP COMMISSIONER

THE CANADIAN PRESS

NEW BRUNSWICK

Sex toys, underwear stolen

RCMP in New Brunswick say more people are coming forward complaining that sex toys and women's underwear were stolen from their homes.

Last Thursday, police reported there had been seven break-ins in the Saint-Paul and Sainte-Marie areas where women's undergarments and sex toys were taken.

They now say four more people have come forward with similar complaints since then.

The thefts, all committed while the homes were empty, began in July.

In one case, officers say lingerie was taken from a clothesline.

Police say they believe there may be more people who had such items stolen but may be reluctant to come forward.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Jury hears teacher had sex with boy

A jury has heard that a former Saskatchewan teacher held hands with a male student she's accused of sexually exploiting and cavorted with him in a hot tub during a school choir field trip to Alberta.

The testimony came on Tuesday at the trial for Bonnie McLachlan in Prince Albert, Sask.

The former Grade 9 teacher was charged after an investigation into an alleged teacher-student relationship in the early 1990s.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Minister catches teen pranksters

Alberta's education minister is not amused by a prank two teenagers pulled when they pulled him over by posing as police officers.

Thomas Lukaszuk says he was driving when a car with flashing red and blue lights pulled up behind him.

Lukaszuk stopped but soon realized he wasn't dealing with legitimate officers. He got their licence number and followed them until real officers showed up to deal with the bogus police.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Greek vote paves way for giant crackdown

Greece's new coalition government easily won a confidence vote in parliament yesterday.

It enables Prime Minister Lucas Papademos to speed up long-term reforms and secure a massive new bailout deal involving banks and rescue creditors.

Greece is at the heart of a vicious debt crisis that has brought it to the brink of bankruptcy.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

30,000

Papademos must oversee a raft of austerity measures, including the suspension of about 30,000 civil servants on partial pay.

Arrivederci: PM boots politicos

Italy's new leader creates a crisis team of bankers, diplomats and business experts to rescue economy

Prime Minister Mario Monti yesterday formed a new Italian government — with an Italian twist.

His cabinet has not one single politician.

Monti has created a team of bankers, diplomats and business executives to steer Italy away from financial disaster.

"I hope that, governing well, we can make a contribution to the calming and cohesion of the political forces," Monti said.

The 68-year-old former European Union commissioner said he'll serve as Italy's economy minister as well as its prime minister as he seeks "sacrifices" from across the political spectrum to solve the Italian economy's woes.

Bonds bombing

- Hopes for the new administration won Italy some respite in financial markets yesterday, but the relief didn't last long.
- By afternoon, the yield or interest rate on 10-year Italian bonds was back dangerously near 7 per cent — the threshold that eventually forced Greece, Ireland and Portugal to seek bailouts.

Monti and his new cabinet ministers were sworn in at the presidential palace.

The ceremony formally ended Silvio Berlusconi's three-year-old government and the media mogul's 17-year-long political dominance.

Berlusconi and Monti shook hands in an unofficial handover of power.

Why does Monti's cabinet have no one from the ranks of Italy's fractious political parties?

Monti said he decided after talks with party leaders "that the non-presence of politicians in the government would help it."

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

ROBERTO MONALDO/LAPRESSE/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

▶ Ready for action: Italy's new PM, Mario Monti, pictured in Rome yesterday, will implement "sacrifices" to balance the country's budget.

Whodunit? Somalia airstrike a mystery

When thundering explosions rattled a small Somali town during a meeting of Islamist insurgent leaders, it sent them scurrying for safety.

An international military force appears to have launched the powerful, well-timed attack, but no one will admit it.

The two top possibilities — the U.S. and French militaries — both deny responsibility.

Officials from the two countries even suggested it might be the other.

Sunday night's explosion in Afgoye, a heavily populated corridor along a main road leading out of the Somali capital, came as Somalia's al-Qaida-linked al-Shabab militia is fighting to defend itself on two fronts.

African Union soldiers have taken over the capital, Mogadishu, and Kenyan soldiers crossed the border into southern Somalia last month.

Missile motives

Both the U.S. and France have motives for launching a missile.

- The U.S. lists al-Shabab as a terrorist organization and is alarmed by its recruitment of young Americans.
- Last month Somali gunmen abducted an elderly French woman from her home in Kenya. She died. Another French hostage, a military official, has been held for more than two years.

But neither Kenya nor the AU force — known as AMISOM — was likely to have launched the attack, said Lauren Gelfand, the Africa and Middle East editor of Jane's Defence Weekly.

"To have that kind of strike capability is completely beyond AMISOM. They have no air support,'' said Gelfand.

"The Kenyan F5s (jets) do have the capability, but whether they have the precision is unlikely."

Gelfand added: "The Americans do have the assets required for a targeted strike in the region, as do the French.

"(The French) have a base in Djibouti from which they launch their tactical support to the European Union's anti-piracy operations."

Kenya's military spokesperson said Kenya was not behind the Sunday strike. Kenya has acknowledged other bombing raids in recent weeks.

Al-Shabab leader Ahmed Abdi Mohamed Godane, also known as Abu Zubayr, was meeting other senior leaders in Afgoye when the explosion happened, said one senior Somali official. He said that witnesses said it seemed to "come from the sky."

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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Productivity gap carries heavy cost

Companies' failure to invest in new machinery, technology hits Canadians in the wallet: Study

Canadians would have about $7,500 more a year in disposable income if companies had been able to keep up with their U.S. rivals in productivity over the past decade, the Conference Board of Canada reports.

Based on the premise that Canada's productivity has lagged the U.S. by 0.8 percentage points a year from 1998 to 2008, the Conference Board study suggests:

- Real per capita gross domestic product had fallen $8,500 further back in 2008 than where it would have been had the gap not existed.
- As well, corporate profits would have risen by about 40 per cent and government revenues by 31 per cent.

But the most revealing finding is that Canadians would on average be much wealthier, allowing them to spend more and boost the economic performance of the country.

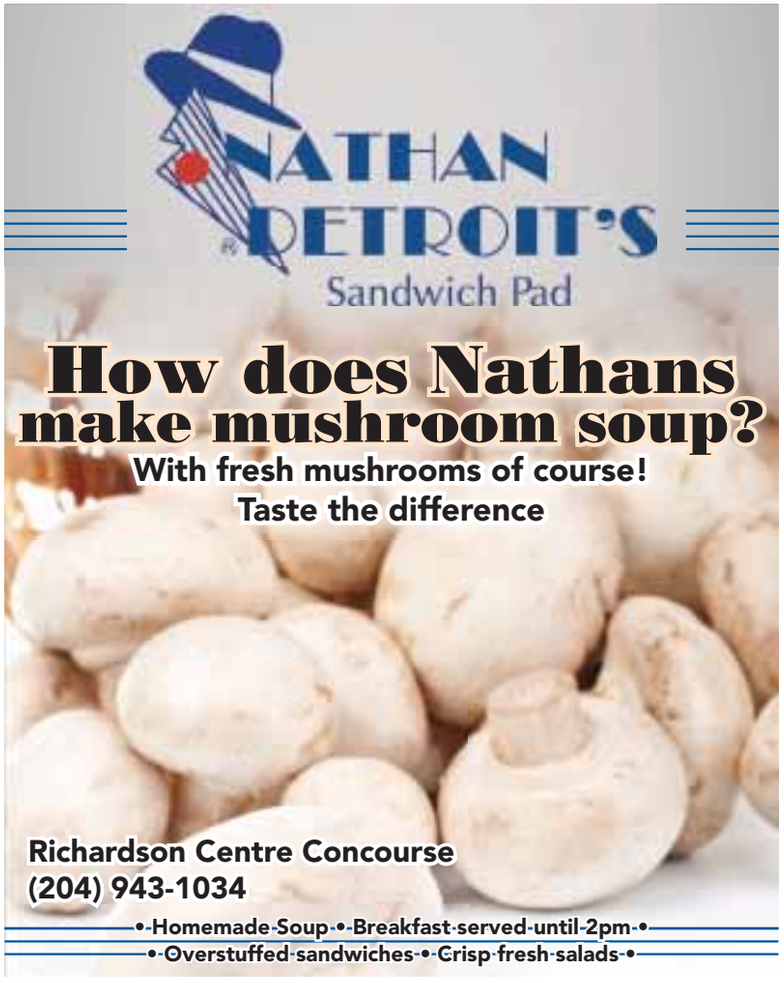
Economist Mario Lefebvre, who wrote the report, said he tried to personalize what is at stake because he finds few people understand how productivity — which measures output in terms of hours worked — affects them.

The report puts the blame for the gap on the corporate sector, noting Canadian firms have not kept up with their U.S. counterparts in adopting the latest technologies that boost the ability of their workers to produce more. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Market moment

PRICES AS OF 5 P.M. YESTERDAY

TSX	Dollar
- 54.91 (12,174.36)	- 0.20¢ (97.76¢ US)
Oil	**Natural gas 1,000 cu ft** $3.344 (- 6¢)
+ $3.22 US ($102.59 US)	**Gold contracts** $1,774.30 (- $7.90)



Never. Say die

▶ TransCanada Corp. is still dedicated to moving the Keystone XL pipeline forward despite a recent delay, its chief executive says. Russ Girling says TransCanada is confident U.S. regulators will approve the Alberta-to-Texas line once a new route is worked out to avoid ecologically sensitive parts of Nebraska.

JEFF MCINTOSH/THE CANADIAN PRESS

Keystone delayed, not dead, CEO says

Canada needs united front on energy strategy: Alberta premier

Ottawa and the provinces should rally together on oil, gas and other forms of Canadian-produced energy as the country looks to markets beyond the United States, Alberta Premier Alison Redford says.

In a speech to the Economic Club of Canada in Toronto, Redford said yesterday that the developing world is hungry for Canadian energy and if Canada is to be a global energy leader it must reduce market dependence on the U.S. as its demand declines.

She said the U.S. government delay of the Keystone pipeline in the U.S. is an example of why Canada needs to look to Asia and elsewhere.

Her remarks came during a flood of activity in the oil pipeline industry.

Enbridge Inc. said yesterday that it would pay $1.15 billion US for a half-stake in an existing pipeline from the Gulf Coast and reverse its flow to relieve a build-up of oil storage in Cushing, Okla.

Enbridge rival TransCanada Corp., meanwhile, said it may be possible to build the southern leg of its Alberta-to-Texas Keystone XL pipeline as early as next year in a move also designed to drain supplies from Cushing.

Redford said both developments were encouraging. She also said she wants to engage in a rational conversation with critics to work out their concerns. "If they have concerns that are not based on facts, then let's get the facts right," she said. THE CANADIAN PRESS

CHRIS YOUNG/THE CANADIAN PRESS

▶ Redford

Facebook fends off latest spam attack

Facebook has stopped most of the spam that has flooded many users' pages with pictures showing graphic sex and violence, the company said yesterday.

The latest attack tricked users into pasting malicious links into the address bars in their web browsers. This exploited a browser vulnerability that caused them inadvertently to share the graphic content with their Facebook friends. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Berlin to tax hotel stays

Berlin plans to levy a new tax on hotel stays, tapping the German capital's healthy tourist trade to help improve its strained finances.

The plan is part of a deal reached yesterday for centre-left Mayor Klaus Wowereit to form a coalition with the local branch of Chancellor Angela Merkel's conservative Christian Democrats. The tax will be levied in January 2013.

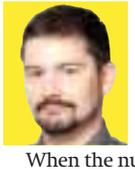
5% The five per cent levy on hotel stays could bring in some 20 million euros a year, Berlin's mayor says.

Berlin has become one of Europe's most popular destinations in recent years. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

TRUE TEST OF COUNTERFEIT BILLS IS IN THE SCENT

HE SAYS ...

JOHN MAZEROLLE
METRO



Welcome to the Bank of Canada's public-awareness campaign designed to help Canadians learn about the newly unveiled $100 bills and how to spot counterfeit cash. Let's begin.

It's important to note that, according to the RCMP, the number of seized counterfeit bills in Canada has dropped dramatically in the last decade. This can only mean one thing: *Counterfeiters are fooling us more than ever.*

When the number of bogus bills seized annually drops to zero, we'll know the criminals have finally won.

But you can help fight counterfeitism by paying special attention to the new bills — look at them, flip them, feel them, talk to them, come to know them.

The bills are a mix of old and new: For instance, the image of Robert Borden on the $100 is now looking right at you. But, in a nod to the old design, you'll still have no idea who Robert Borden was or what he did.

Above all, the bills have been designed with security in mind. And whether a brand-new design or an old bill, there are important warning signs that the cash you're carrying may be bogus.

"The new notes are magic-eye puzzles. If you let your eyes go out of focus, you will see, depending on the denomination, John A. Macdonald with his head resting on a toilet bowl or Pierre Elliot Trudeau giving you the finger."

Be aware:

• On Canadian currency, Canada is rarely spelled with a K.

• Canadian bills include braille. If the bill is counterfeit, braille reads, "This bill is fake. Shhh …"

• Be wary if small print says, "We swear this bill is legal tender, honest."

• There has never been a bill with Geddy Lee's image, there is no such coin as the "threenee," and the $57.50 bill is no longer in circulation.

• Only younger depictions of the Queen show her with a nose ring; on counterfeit bills, her pearls are also fake.

• The King of Kensington was never actually part of the British monarchy.

Still not sure? The new bills also allow new ways to check their legitimacy beyond simple visuals:

• Chewing on a new bill for one hour will trigger the taste of wild pomegranates.

• A new $100 will burn at 233 C. Results vary, so burn at least 10 of them, then calculate the mean temperature.

• The new notes are magic-eye puzzles. If you let your eyes go out of focus, you will see, depending on the denomination, John A. Macdonald with his head resting on a toilet bowl or Pierre Elliot Trudeau giving you the finger.

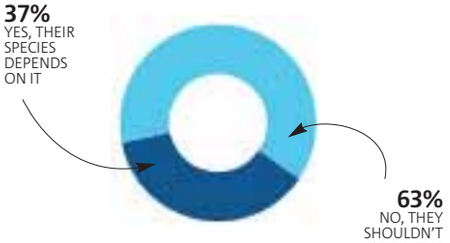
If you follow these tips and still can't decide if your bill is real, please mail it to me and I will ascertain its value in the most respected and time-honoured method available. I will spend it. You can't be too careful.

Read more of John Mazerolle's columns at metronews.ca/hesays

Metropolitan Panel

Register at metropolitanpanel.ca and take the quick poll

Should zoos separate same-sex animal mates in the name of species survival?



Local tweets

- **@Jill Sutherland:** Remember back in the day when folks talking to themselves in public were automatically categorized as plain old crazy, not on the phone?
- **@brucetola:** Everyone talks about hot water heaters. If the water's already hot, why heat it?
- **@rachelkram:** Had a dream about wearing shorts.. Now there's this weather #thankswinnipeg
- **@madfishmonger:** @EmmyCic I love riding bikes, but in Winnipeg it's way too cold and snowy to do that from now until sometime in April :(
- **@UnitedWayWpg:** Koats for Kids is receiving lots of orders this year. Please bring donations to Perth's & Winnipeg fire halls—let's keep kids warm!
- **@MarloBoux:** Awww a sweet elderly man gave me his impark ticket for 2 hours. What a nice gesture! Gotta #payitforward #Winnipeg
- **@brucetola:** Clearly, the city of Winnipeg does loads more polluting than do farmers, but the province loves pinning blame on farmers.

Letters

BILL C-10.
We do not need more hardened criminals and an outrageously expensive prison system that gives us nothing back. **ERIN ELLIS, OTTAWA**

We know that this approach will fail at achieving its stated goals — Texas gives a clear example of this. The Canadian Bar Association has taken a clear stance against it, stating that it may actually worsen the problems it is purported to fix. High costs — both monetary and social. It targets those in our country who are already most vulnerable, the poor, mentally ill and addicted. **MATT TAVES, VANCOUVER**

It just doesn't make sense to jail an 18-year-old drug dealer and then release them in five or 10 years and imagine that s/he will suddenly be a law-abiding citizen. How can they when they haven't learned how? But if those years are used to teach that person how to live without drugs, to treat their depression, how to get a job, then the chances seem much better that that person can survive without turning to crime, and not re-offend. **DR LAURA CLARK, MD, TORONTO**

photo of the day

Metro PHOTO CHALLENGE

▶ This photo titled Ferris Wheel was submitted to the Pleasure category by Artur Andronic from the U.S.

Metro invites its readers to join the Metro Global Photo Challenge — running in 100 cities on four continents — to win fantastic prizes and worldwide recognition. Enter your digital photos at metrophotochallenge.com. The contest runs until Nov. 22. As well as a chance to win a trip to any city Metro publishes, one submission will also be featured here daily.

WEIRD NEWS

Maybe she thinks she has a 50/50 chance

Lindsey Ann Miller, the pretty 26-year-old UCLA student suffering with a rare form of pancreatic cancer was so moved by the performance of Joseph Gordon-Levitt in the film 50/50 that she's made a very public YouTube plea for a coffee date with the Hollywood actor.

Gordon-Levitt, 30, best known for his role in the TV sitcom 3rd Rock From the Sun, was praised for his unique portrayal of a young man diagnosed with cancer in this fall's hit 50/50.

JASON MERRITT/GETTY IMAGES

▶ Joseph Gordon-Levitt

Miller was diagnosed a year ago with neuro-endocrine pancreatic cancer, underwent surgery in December to remove tumours from her liver and continues to endure nauseating bouts of chemotherapy treatments.

Miller acknowledges the video is a long shot. But why not? She figures, "Life is short." **TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE**

metro

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A QUICK LOOK AT WHAT YOUR DOWNTOWN BIZ HAS BEEN UP TO THIS YEAR... AND WHAT'S TO COME IN THE NEW YEAR!

IT'S ABOUT downtown

TODAY'S FOCUS: CLEANLINESS

WATCH FOR ONE MORE DOWNTOWN BIZ AD TO FIND OUT WHAT'S HAPPENING DOWNTOWN! NOVEMBER 22

> Abdul and Dennis of the BIZ Metro Enviro-Team out and about downtown.

FROM HARDSHIP TO NEW BEGINNINGS

By Rose Dominguez

Good friends, a good job and good education are some of the things important to Sudanese-born immigrant Abdul Akuei, who works for the Downtown BIZ Metro Enviro-Team. But seven years ago, the only things Abdul focused on was finding food, water, and a safe place to sleep at night.

Prior to immigrating to Canada, Abdul grew up in a small village in Sudan and faced hardship that most Canadians only read about in the news.

Abdul recalls the night his uncle was captured and killed by the Sudan government. They came to his home and asked who would claim the body, and Abdul, on the verge of tears, was unable to respond because of the fear of being killed himself.

"Since no one claimed my uncle's body, they just threw his body in the dirt," says Abdul. "My grandma was so heartbroken she couldn't even look at me because I reminded her of my uncle. She sent me away and that was the last time I saw her." Alone and afraid, Abdul went to bed every night fearing for his life and went through countless traumatic situations that still haunt him to this day.

Eventually he was found by UNICEF and brought to a refugee camp in Kenya. From there, the Canadian Embassy stepped in to bring Abdul and others in the camp to Canada.

In September 2004, 29-year-old Abdul moved to Winnipeg to begin his new life. When Abdul arrived, he took classes at Adult Education. Now he works for the Downtown BIZ Metro Enviro-Team and volunteers for the Downtown Watch.

"I like working here (Downtown BIZ) because I have made a lot of good friends that help me keep going and I am able to share my dreams with them," says the tall young man. "But in the next couple years I would like to join the police academy or something in the military."

NEW LOOK REBRANDS THE BIZ'S CLEANING TEAM

As Metro newspapers swept into downtown this spring, the BIZ's clean team took on a new name and look. Metro partnered with the BIZ to keep downtown clean, and the BIZ Metro Enviro-Team was born. Dressed in forest green, the Metro Enviro-Team employs 13 full-time staff, year round—plus a summer weekend crew of 4 people. During the summer months, the crews work in two shifts from 6:30am – 7:30pm Monday to Friday, and from 8:30am-4:30pm Saturday and Sunday. The team picks up litter, vacuums sidewalks, waters flowers, pressure washes bus shelters, removes graffiti and posters, and clears snow in the winter.

Crews installed 15 new permanent cigarette butt receptacles near businesses this year, while six travelling cigarette butt receptacles continue to be positioned as needed in heavily used areas and at events, helping significantly reduce pesky cigarette butts which really add up. With funding from the Winnipeg Parking Authority, the team has doubled efforts in the Broadway neighbourhood.

NEW ALL-GREEN GRAFFITI FIGHTING MACHINE TACKLES DOWNTOWN CLEANLINESS

The world's most advanced green cleaning system has landed in downtown Winnipeg to fight graffiti—the first municipality in Canada to adopt the new system. The Downtown BIZ and City of Winnipeg each have a brand new 100% eco-friendly graffiti removal machine.

The Tornado ACS (Advanced Cleaning System), manufactured in Germany, removes graffiti from virtually any surface without the use of water or harsh chemicals. Staff do not even need to wear special protective clothing. The BIZ ran public demonstrations at this fall's Winnipeg Green Lifestyle & Natural Living Show.

NEW BANNERS WELCOME PEOPLE DOWNTOWN

Thirty colourful new banners at downtown gateways will soon welcome people to the city centre. Watch for the banners on the Midtown / Donald Bridge, Main Street Bridge, Osborne Bridge and Disraeli.

MILLENNIUM LIBRARY PARK SITE FURNITURE SPONSORSHIP

Stunning park furniture was on display around downtown in a travelling "pod" to vividly paint a picture of how the public can be a tangible part of the renewed Millennium Library Park. The BIZ is collecting donations in order to purchase site furniture to outfit the park when it opens next year. Check it out now at the Library!

ABOUT THE DOWNTOWN WINNIPEG BIZ

The Downtown BIZ markets the city centre on behalf of 1,400 businesses and runs programs targeting downtown image, cleanliness, safety, transportation and parking. We also host events and promote and advocate for downtown as a great place to work, shop and live. Every retail, commercial and professional business in the zone is a BIZ member and funds the Downtown BIZ.

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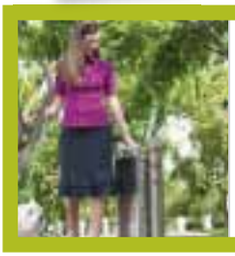


KEEP OUR DOWNTOWN CLEAN BE PART OF THE SOLUTION!

If you see litter, pick it up or call **958-4640**

(Call the same number to order a cigarette butt receptacle, cost shared with the BIZ and Take Pride Winnipeg! at 50%)

A small scene to big screen

Bloodied But Unbowed captures Vancouver's punk rock scene from more than 20 years ago

BACKSTAGE PASS

JARED STORY
METRO WINNIPEG

Bloodied But Unbowed chronicles the Vancouver punk rock scene from 1978 to 1982, an underground music movement smaller than similar scenes in Los Angeles, London and New York, but every bit as important.

"The Vancouver scene was such an underappreciated gem," says filmmaker Susanne Tabata, 52. "What Vancouver had going for it was that it was off the radar, because for English speaking Canada the record markets were in Toronto. Because Vancouver wasn't given much attention or taken seriously, people got to play, write, perform and be original before they started becoming aware of themselves. As soon as you develop an awareness of yourself and take yourself seriously, dressing for the record company or whatever, that's usually when the magic is over as far as a scene goes."

Tabata knows a thing or two about the Vancouver scene. While punk rock pioneers D.O.A., the Subhumans, Pointed Sticks and the Modernettes were making their mark on Terminal City, a young Tabata was involved with local late-night live cable music show Nite Dreems and DJing at University of British Columbia radio station CiTR. Still, despite her connections to the scene, Tabata was surprised by much of what she unearthed.

"As a sideline observer of the scene, I was in no means an expert of the lifestyle," Tabata says. "I loved the music, but I didn't live in those houses (many Vancouver punk rockers inhabited decrepit party places). I was definitely outside of it. The interesting thing I got out of this film was how tight some of these people were connected with one another. A lot had roomed together in those houses. Also, I wasn't aware of how deep the schism went in terms of the tragedy and the drug use. I had heard about it, but didn't realize how deep it went."

Despite the drugs/disaster, most of Bloodied But Unbowed is good-natured and very funny. Rough and tumble as they may be, Van City punk rockers like Joe Kiethley, Randy Rampage, Buck Cherry, Zippy Pinhead, Mary Armstrong and Art Bergmann are extremely endearing characters.

"One of the things that distinguishes Vancouver from other scenes of that era is the humour, absolutely silly self-effacing Canadian humour at its best," Tabata says.

CONTRIBUTED

▶ Bloodied But Unbowed screens at Cinematheque Friday and Saturday at 9 p.m.

Details

Where can you find it?

Show Bloodied But Unbowed screens at Cinematheque Friday and Saturday at 9 pm, as well as Wednesday and next Thursday at 9:30 pm. Saturday features a live set by Winnipeg drunk punks Trousermouth prior to the picture. Admission is $8, $7 for student/seniors and $6 for members.

Breaking bridal traditions

Many brides keep their wedding dresses a secret until the moment they walk down the aisle, but all of cyberspace isn't usually speculating about it. The exception is Bella Swan.

The much anticipated bridal gown will make its debut on Friday as The Twilight Saga: Breaking Dawn, Part 1 is released in movie theatres.

What's known about the gown worn by Kristen Stewart's character as she married Robert Pattinson's Edward Cullen: It's designed by Carolina Herrera. It has 100 buttons down the back. It's made of lace and satin, and it aims to be simultaneously romantic and mysterious.

"Well, the inspiration became a little bit by the book," said Herrera on the red carpet at the Los Angeles premiere Monday night. "And the description of the book, and the magic and the moment that is the wedding and also about her (Bella's) personality, which is very important in a wedding gown. She is this very innocent girl that is believing in her first true love and there is romance and there is fantasy and mystery. Everything so, I took all that into consideration."

Pattinson approved, saying it was a "beautiful" dress and Stewart did it justice.

"She looked incredible," he said.

"I mean, it's a really sweet scene."

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

MATT SAYLES/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

▶ Robert Pattinson and Kristen Stewart

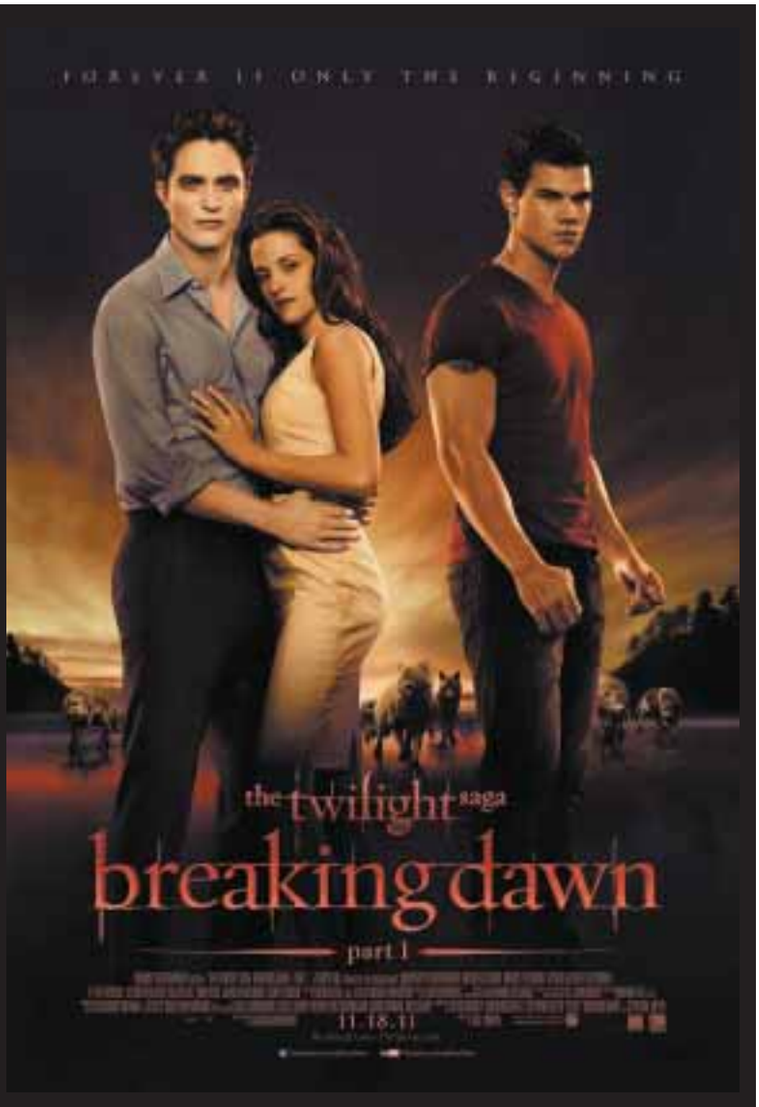
2 scene

Top Chef Canada

Model-turned-actress Lisa Ray is the new host of Top Chef Canada. The Water star is taking over hosting duties from Thea Andrews, who recently gave birth to her second child.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Turn-of-the-century series 'Murdoch Mysteries' to move from Citytv to CBC



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Von Teese talks corsets, cocktails

Burlesque star unveils portable cocktail kit

ALL PHOTOS GETTY IMAGES

THE WORD

DOROTHY ROBINSON
SCENE@METRONEWS.CA

Striptease star and corset collector Dita Von Teese visited New York on Tuesday night to unveil Cointreau Travel Essentials, her portable cocktail kit for women on the go. Swizzle-stick thin and flanked by New York downtown comedy king Murray Hill, she talked to Metro about why the new burlesque attracts so many female fans.

"I think it's because they like to see an alternative kind of beauty. I'm not tan, I'm not blonde, I don't look right in a bikini."

With so many women embracing burlesque, does she see the corset making a comeback?

"I think what's great is we have the option. We can wear whatever we want, and we can be whoever we want, and if we want to wear a corset, we can wear it our way. There are lots of ways to bring the corset into your life without suffering."

▶ Dita Von Teese

Bieber's alleged baby momma drops her case

It looks like Justin Bieber is in the clear, as Mariah Yeater has reportedly dropped her paternity case against him, according to Hollyscoop. The 20-year-old San Diego woman had accused 17-year-old Bieber of fathering her four-month-old son. The pop star had reportedly planned to take a paternity test upon returning to the U.S. and then file suit against Yeater. The case was reportedly dismissed quietly last week, and Yeater's attorneys are no longer representing her.

Representatives for Bieber say that he is still planning on taking a paternity test. METRO WITH FILES FROM THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

No expiration date for Brad Pitt

Brad Pitt wants to clarify that comment he made about retiring from acting at age 50.

"I wasn't actually putting an exact deadline on my expiration date, but I see it coming. I just have other interests and I do quite enjoy the production side," Pitt said during a press conference in South Korea. "Me, personally I like ageing. With age comes wisdom and I have said it before and I say it again, I will take wisdom over youth any day," he added.

METRO

Celebrity tweets

@AlbertBrooks

"60 is the new 40. Dollars, not age."

@kathygriffin

"Look, I don't know what Liza does before playing Carnegie Hall, but I'm watching marathon of "Pitbulls & Parolees" Weird??"

@SethMacFarlane

"Still have not had one sweet dream made of anything involving Annie Lennox."

@SofiaVergara

"OMG so many cute guys at the Latin Grammys!"

Miracle creams:

Multi-talented or misleading?

It's no longer enough for makeup to perform one function Now it's more common for a foundation or concealer to do its job plus two or three more But are beauty brands luring in women with promises that a single product can't possibly deliver?

▶ The best of the bunch: Popular multi-taskers Lancôme Teint Rénergie Lift R.A.R.E., above, by Terry Hyaluronic; Face Glow, right; and Clinique Pore Refining Solutions Instant Perfector, far right.

KENYA HUNT
LIFE@METRONEWS.CA
METRO WORLD NEWS IN LONDON

Makeup is a complicated affair. You have a zit that needs covering, but the concealer only makes the breakout worse. Or your pores are the size of golf balls, but the finely milled powder you splurged on just makes them look twice as big.

For the past year, science has been increasingly blurring the lines between makeup and skin care with products that address aging, sun protection, acne breakouts and redness, all in one shot. You know the products: a foundation that simultaneously covers flaws, evens skin tone and reduces signs of wrinkles, for example, or a concealer that blocks the sun, controls oil and clears up acne. But is the kill-three-skin-flaws-with-one-cream approach the best solution, or are single-use products still the best way to go?

"I'm a busy woman. There are going to be days when I can't put on everything..."
DR. DORIS DAY, DERMATOLOGIST

Mary Schook, a makeup artist and skin-care guru, is on the fence.

"I think it's kind of like those all-in-one shampoo-conditioners. You can use them, but you still get the best results by using a separate shampoo and separate conditioner," she says.

"A lot of these products that claim to block the sun's rays are not protecting the way they should. You're not getting a sunblock in a foundation unless it has both zinc and titanium dioxide. It has to be a chemical compound that blocks the sun's rays and it's hard to find that in a liquid foundation," she says.

Dermatologist Dr. Doris Day, meanwhile, thinks that multi-tasking products can work well as a supplement to a healthy skin-care regimen, but don't necessarily warrant throwing out your arsenal of face creams.

"I like multi-tasking products. Think of these makeup items as your bonus, not your main meal. I'm a busy woman. I have a husband, two kids and three jobs. There are going to be days when I can't put on everything all the time," she admits.

Celebrity makeup artist Talia Shobrook agrees that some makeup items that do triple-duty can be worth the investment.

"The foundations and powders that include acne-fighting ingredients, for instance, are great because that is a specific problem that can be treated quickly," she says.

"But I don't necessarily think that an anti-aging foundation is going to work very well. Anti-aging is not a quick fix. Those products are dipping into skin care, when it should just be separate altogether. Plus the anti-aging ingredients seem to make the makeup feel heavier on the skin," she says.

Ultimately, the real task is knowing what to look for.

"It's about finding the right ingredients," Schook says. Day adds, "You want to make sure the products don't combine ingredients that cancel each other out."

3 life

Style pick

Meet Amie

Italy-based designer Chrissie Morris is known for her towering, show-stopping Art Deco heels, but her foray into flats, Amie, a pieced together beauty made of leopard print ponyhair and sting ray, makes a strong case for staying closer to the ground. KENYA HUNT

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Decorative pillows 101

Perfect for cushioning life's cold and difficult days, pillows are more than just pretty pieces of fabric

CONTRIBUTED

▶ Brightly coloured cushions can light up a drab room.

DESIGN CENTRE

KARL LOHNES
HOME@METRONEWS.CA

Adding some new decorative pillows to the living or bedroom is an easy way to add colour, personality and comfort to your space.

Available in all price points and decor styles, a few new cushy friends are always a welcome change to a tired decor scheme.

Treat yourself this winter to a few of these comforting gems.

CRATE AND BARREL.

▶ Textured pillows dress up a sofa and offer ultimate comfort.

Sizes: The 18-inch square pillow is the standard choice for chairs or sofas; the 20- to 24-inch is great for beds; and the 12-x-18 (often referred to as the lumbar pillow) is a great friend to support your lower back when sitting on a tall, tight-back style seat.

Larger 24-inch square pillows are great supporters for sitting up in bed or for throwing on the floor as extra casual sitting.

Styles: Draw on colours and style inspiration from art, area rugs and other accessories in a room.

If mixing patterns, try to have curvy lined patterns like floral, paisley or circles mixed with straight lines like stripes, plaids and geometrics.

The difference in patterns creates a juxtaposition that will allow each pattern to stand out in the room.

If there is no colour or pattern in your room then choose lighter and darker versions of your monochromatic colour scheme for impact.

You can also go with textured fabrics to create subtle interest.

Knitted textures are very popular for winter, while heavy linen weaves are great for spring/summer.

PIER 1

▶ Warning: Pillow fights may no longer be confined to the bedroom.

Fills: Decorative pillows can look beautiful but if filled with the wrong insert, can be useless for comfort.

Foam and feather are the two basic fills for most cushions. Foam filled cushions tend to offer more support and keep their shape for some time.

Eventually, the foam will break down and the pillow will lose its shape.

Feather- and down-filled cushions are considered the most luxurious.

They squish down and mould to the body for subtle comfort and spring back nice and full when left alone.

Not great for support but look oh-so luxurious.

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These delicious Espresso Brownies replace white flour with brown rice flour

THE CANADIAN PRESS H/O

Gluten-Free Espresso Brownies

This recipe makes 24 brownies.

DINNER EXPRESS

EMILY RICHARDS
FOOD@METRONEWS.CA

Guests won't believe these deliciously decadent fudgy brownies are gluten-free. Made with rich dark chocolate, a punch of espresso and rice flour, these thick and rich brownies are to die for.

Preparation:

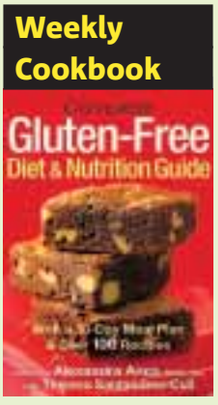
1. Line 23-cm (9-inch) square baking pan with parchment and lightly oil bottom. In large microwave-safe measuring cup, melt chocolate, butter and 15 ml (1 tbsp) of espresso powder in microwave. Stir to combine; set aside.
2. In bowl, using a hand mixer, beat eggs on medium-high until frothy. Add brown sugar and beat until mix is smooth. Stir melted chocolate mix into egg-sugar mix a little at a time. Add gradually and beat well about 1 min. Chocolate will look smooth and glossy.
3. In food processor, combine brown rice, rice flour, remaining espresso powder, salt and baking soda until well combined. Add rice mix into chocolate mix and beat well 1 min. Add vanilla and beat 1 min.
4. Fold in half of nuts, if using, and spread batter into prepared baking pan, smoothing top to even it out. Shake the pan a little to help even out the batter.
5. Bake in centre of 180 C (350 F) oven for 30 to 35 minutes or until brownies are set. Don't overcook (brownies should be fudgy rather than dry and crumbly). Let cool completely on a wire rack. Cover and refrigerate to chill for at least 2 hours or up to 1 day before cutting into squares (they are easier to cut when cold).

Ingredients:

- 500 ml (2 cups) good-quality dark chocolate, chopped
- 125 ml (1/2 cup) butter
- 30 ml (2 tbsp) instant espresso powder
- 2 eggs
- 250 ml (1 cup) packed brown sugar
- 250 ml (1 cup) cooked brown rice
- 50 ml (1/4 cup) brown rice flour
- 2 ml (1/2 tsp) salt
- 1 ml (1/4 tsp) baking soda
- 10 ml (2 tsp) vanilla
- 125 ml (1/2 cup) chopped pecans or walnuts (optional)

EMILY RICHARDS IS A PROFESSIONAL HOME ECONOMIST, COOKBOOK AUTHOR AND A TV CELEBRITY CHEF. FOR MORE, VISIT EMILYRICHARDSCOOKS.CA/ THE CANADIAN PRESS/ RICE-INFO.COM

Weekly Cookbook



Today, a gluten-free lifestyle is not only for those with celiac disease. People wanting to enjoy a healthier life are also cutting gluten out of their daily diet.

To help them, the Complete Gluten-Free Diet & Nutritional Guide by Alexandra Anca and Theresa Santandrea-Cull includes a 30-day meal plan and recipes for breakfasts, breads and muffins, soups, salads, pasta, meat, poultry, vegetarian and vegan entrées and desserts.

Among the recipes included are Chocolate Hazelnut Biscotti, Chicken Pot Pie, Lasagna with Meat Sauce, Battered Fish and more.

Red Velvet Cupcakes slim down

Classic treat gets healthy when you reduce amount of fattening ingredients Each one weighs in at just 98 calories and less than 3 grams of fat

MATTHEW MEAD/ THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

This recipe makes four servings.

Preparation:

1. Heat oven to 180 C (350 F). Line 4 large (6.5-cm/2 1/2-inch) muffin cups with paper liners. Lightly coat liners with cooking spray.
2. Separate egg yolks and whites, discarding 1 of the yolks. Place remaining egg yolk in a medium bowl. Place 2 egg whites in another medium bowl. To whites, add 2 packets of the Stevia, 5 ml (1 tsp) of the vanilla and 2 ml (1/2 tsp) of the food colouring. Mix and set aside.
3. Add remaining 3 packets Stevia, 5 ml (1 tsp) vanilla and 2 ml (1/2 tsp) food colouring to egg yolk. Whisk yolk mixture for 3 minutes. Add buttermilk and agave. Whisk until combined.
4. In a small bowl, whisk together flour, flaxseed meal, cocoa powder and salt. Add to yolk-buttermilk mixture and beat on low just until combined.
5. Using an electric mixer, beat egg white mixture on medium to high until stiff peaks form. Working in 3 batches, fold egg whites into buttermilk mixture, being careful not to deflate whites.
6. Spoon mixture evenly into muffin cups. Bake for 12 to 15 minutes or until tops spring back when lightly touched. Transfer cupcakes to a wire rack and let cool.
7. To prepare frosting, in bowl, combine pudding and cream cheese. Mix until smooth. Pipe evenly over each cupcake.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS/ ROCCO DISPIRITO, AUTHOR OF THE NOW EAT THIS! DIET COOKBOOKS

Ingredients:

- 2 eggs
- 5 packets natural Stevia sweetener (powder)
- 10 ml (2 tsp) vanilla extract
- 5 ml (1 tsp) red food colouring
- 30 ml (2 tbsp) buttermilk
- 15 ml (1 tbsp) agave nectar
- 50 ml (1/4 cup) whole-wheat pastry flour
- 30 ml (2 tbsp) flaxseed meal
- 10 ml (2 tsp) unsweetened cocoa powder
- 0.5 ml (1/8 tsp) salt
- 30 ml (2 tbsp) prepared vanilla sugar-free, fat-free pudding
- 30 ml (2 tbsp) fat-free cream cheese, softened

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4 sports

Quoted

"He's keeping everyone in the dark, just like he's keeping you guys (reporters) in the dark."

PITTSBURGH CENTRE JORDAN STAAL ON SIDNEY CROSBY. DESPITE INCREASING SPECULATION THAT THE NHL'S BIGGEST STAR IS NEARING A RETURN FROM HIS 10-MONTH CONCUSSION LAYOFF, THE PENGUINS RULED CROSBY OUT OF TONIGHTS GAME AT TAMPA BAY. CROSBY LAST SPOKE TO REPORTERS ON NOV. 7. SINCE THEN, THE PENGUINS HAVE SAID HE WILL RESUME TALKING ONLY WHEN THERE IS A CHANGE IN HIS STATUS.

Scan code for more sports.

Home record key to success

Jets set to play 15 of its next 20 games at the MTS Centre ◗ Stretch could go a long way towards team's playoff chances ◗ Kicked off three-game homestand with win over Tampa Bay

TREVOR HAGAN/THE CANADIAN PRESS

▶ Winnipeg Jets head coach Claude Noel looks on during a time out against the Florida Panthers during the first period on Nov. 10.

If the Winnipeg Jets are going to make the playoffs this season, they will need to lay the foundation for their success in front of their faithful fans over the next six weeks.

The 6-9-3 Jets have played just six of their first 18 games at home this season. They have recorded only 15 points, leaving them ahead of just the New York Islanders and the Columbus Blue Jackets in the overall standings.

Head coach Claude Noel made it clear before the season that his target was to reach the 95 or 96 points he thought it would take to earn a playoff berth. Yesterday, he offered a breakdown of where he thought those points would come from.

"The first thing you have to do is you have to be .500 on the road," said Noel, whose team is 3-6-3 on the road. "The second thing is you've got to be quite a bit over .500 at home to have success. Those two things have to equate."

The Jets, who are 3-3-0 at home, kicked off a three-game homestand Monday with a 5-2 win over Tampa Bay. Winnipeg will host the Washington Capitals today and the Philadelphia Flyers on Saturday.

The Jets aren't faring any better with some of the other numbers that Noel believes are indicative of a playoff team. The team is minus-12 in goal differential, and its power-play percentage (15.9) and penalty-killing percentage (79.3) add up to 95.2, well below the 105 that the coach would like to see.

A failure to beat Washington would highlight another troubling trend for the Jets — an inability to string together wins. The team's longest winning streak is a modest two-gamer in South Florida and Long Island.

General manager Kevin Cheveldayoff said he's still evaluating the team he inherited from Atlanta during the off-season.

"I think you're constantly assessing," Cheveldayoff said. "But when you are a quarter of the way through (the season) ... you start to formulate some thoughts as to where you're at."

Both Noel and Cheveldayoff are eager to see how the Jets play when some of their regulars return from injury.

That includes forward Eric Fehr, who Noel said has a "slim chance" of playing his first game of the season on Saturday after undergoing off-season shoulder surgery.

Cheveldayoff said he's particularly pleased with the organization's depth on the blue-line, as a rash of injuries has forced the team to use 12 different defencemen.

The rookie GM wouldn't say that any trades are imminent, but allowed that the seeds for potential moves could be planted at this time of year.

"I'd really like to have two good efforts in a row."

HEAD COACH CLAUDE NOEL, WHO GAVE THE PLAYERS YESTERDAY OFF AFTER A SKILLS COMPETITION THE NIGHT BEFORE

"You can wake up in the morning and have a defenceman hurt or a forward sick," Cheveldayoff said. "And all of a sudden what you thought was a great idea yesterday, you have to put on the back burner for today." THE CANADIAN PRESS

In search of Blake Wheeler's value

THE HOCKEY NEWS

RORY BOYLEN
WINNIPEG@METRONEWS.CA

The time for Blake Wheeler to wake up is past due.

The fifth overall pick from 2004 has never come close to reaching the potential of a player taken in that slot and if things continue the way they have gone so far in Winnipeg, Wheeler will be destined to be a depth checker in his career — and not even an ideal one.

The Minnesota native posted 21 goals in his 2008-09 rookie season with Boston and followed it up the past two seasons with back-to-back 18-goal efforts.

Compare that to the excruciatingly slow start to this season that has landed Wheeler on the third line and his career projection is heading in the wrong direction.

Usually checkers make up for their lack of offensive production with defensive acumen and a little sandpaper play to annoy and wear down opponents. But it's not as though Wheeler is even developing into that role.

His shorthanded time on ice has always been above 1:00 per game (not substantial, but a fair amount), but this season it's almost non-existent. And, despite his sturdy 6-foot-5 frame, Wheeler wouldn't be classified as a banger in the NHL.

So if Wheeler is being shutout on the scoresheet and isn't making up for it with responsible play in his own end, what exactly is he bringing to the Jets?

Well, not a whole heck of a lot. This is a player who, after being selected surprisingly-high by the Phoenix Coyotes at the draft, couldn't come to terms with the team and signed with Boston as a free agent.

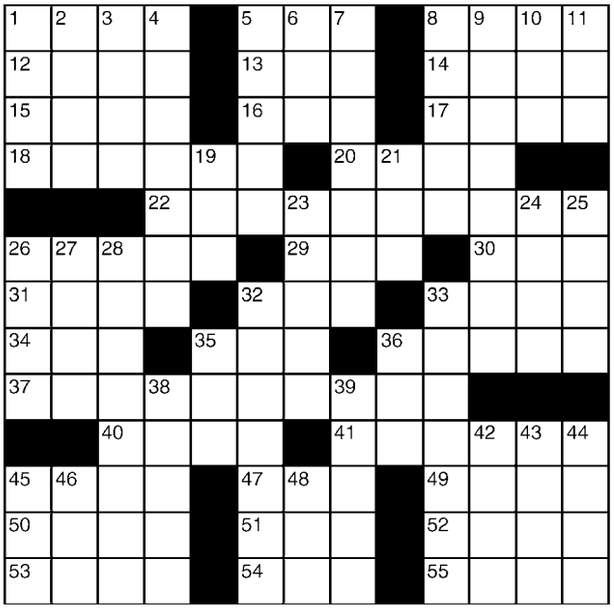
So far, Wheeler's career has been a whole lot of talk and not so much walk.

The American Thanksgiving coming up next weekend is generally the time when GMs start looking to tweak their rosters because they've had enough time to separate the trends from the streaks and have an idea of what shape their team has taken.

No doubt the Jets, still trying to shed the losing mindset of a failed Atlanta franchise and stuck near the bottom of the East, will be eyeing a few adjustments.

And, assuming someone is still interested in Wheeler's supposed potential, the 25-year-old would be a wise place to start.

Crossword



Across

1 Arp's style
5 Dowel
8 Medal earner
12 Memo acronym
13 Motorists' org.
14 "Once — a time, ..."
15 Passenger's payment
16 "— Impossible"
17 Teeny amount
18 Activate, as a TV set
20 Reveille's opposite
22 Quake follow-up
26 Characteristic
29 Spot on a die
30 Buck's mate
31 Legacy recipient
32 Sleepy companion?
33 Green acres
34 Always, in verse
35 Pen name
36 Do very well
37 Cologne's cousin
40 Mosque VIP
41 Day spa treatment
45 For this reason
47 "— not choose to run"
49 Incite
50 Thai money
51 Round Table address
52 "Piggies"
53 Memory measure
54 Witness
55 Conclusions

Down

1 Crazy
2 Birthright barterer
3 Singer Vikki
4 Outdoor
5 Emulate Rembrandt
6 Chow down
7 Stomach-related
8 Contemptuous snort
9 Serialized
10 Deteriorate
11 Individual
19 Frequently, in verse
21 Cleo's slayer
23 Geological time
24 Heart
25 Nautical stabilizer
26 "Take — Train"
27 Coral structure
28 Unbreakable, as an alibi
32 Send packing
33 Do
35 Underwear with underwire
36 Longoria or Mendes
38 Overact
39 Earlier
42 Press
43 On in years
44 Not as much
45 Recede
46 Comic Romano
48 Conk out

▶ Yesterday's answer

For today's crossword answers and for expanded horoscopes, go to metronews.ca

Sudoku

	9	2	4					5
				8	1		9	4
	7	1						
		8		9				3
	2						1	
6				5		8		
						4	7	
5	1		9	3				
9					6	3	5	

How to play

Fill in the grid, so that every row, every column and every 3x3 box contains the digits 1-9. There is no math involved. You solve the puzzle with reasoning and logic.

Yesterday's answer ▶

4	7	5	2	9	6	1	3	8
2	9	8	4	1	3	7	6	5
1	3	6	5	7	8	4	2	9
3	4	7	8	6	5	2	9	1
8	1	2	7	3	9	5	4	6
6	5	9	1	2	4	3	8	7
7	2	4	9	8	1	6	5	3
9	6	1	3	5	2	8	7	4
5	8	3	6	4	7	9	1	2

Send a KISS

You can now post your kiss, and read even more kisses, online at metronews.ca/kiss.

MOCHICHO*, You are the sweetest, most caring and loving man I've ever known. I am so greatful that we met and I can't wait until the day that I can call you my husband. i love you with all heart* **MAGENTAGALAXY

My Adonis, When you feel the void of my absence, you will be a distant, bitter-sweet memory. When you come to the realization of what you've lost, I only want you to remember this: I told you so. **YOUR CURSE**

8-Min-Older-Twin, Thought I'd return a kiss. My friend (the 'good sport' who put me up to this) & I met you & your other half at Corner Fifth. I told you I'd be back, but when I looked for you you were gone. I wanted to say thank you for the drink, and I'd love to go for dinner. never got the chance! I hope to see you again. **A**

A look at the weather

TODAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
Min -12°	Min -14°	Min -18°
Max -7°	Max -6°	Max -9°

Jenna Khan, Weather Specialist

BT BREAKFAST TELEVISION

"Weather impacts everything we do. Providing the information you need before you head out that door and take on the day is the best part of my morning." **WEEKDAYS 5:30 AM**

Today's horoscope

♈ Aries March 21-April 20 Let someone know that he or she must meet you halfway if you're going to end your differences — for good.

♉ Taurus April 21-May 21 The most important thing today, by far, is your attitude. Stay positive and positive things will happen.

♊ Gemini May 22-June 21 Break free of attitudes you know are holding you back. Today's cosmic influences will help you.

♋ Cancer June 22-July 22 You have everything going for you now. But, it won't last forever so make the most of your opportunities.

♌ Leo July 23-Aug.23 Domestic issues need to be handled with care today, as loved ones could be touchy for no good reason.

♍ Virgo Aug. 24- Sept. 22 The planets indicate that what limited you yesterday will bring good fortune today. Make the most of it.

♎ Libra Sept. 23-Oct. 23 Good news on the work or money front will lift your spirits still higher over the next 24 hours.

♏ Scorpio Oct. 24-Nov. 22 Don't listen to what others say is and is not possible. Listen, instead, to what your inner voice tells you.

♐ Sagittarius Nov. 23-Dec. 21 You're worrying for no good reason. What happens later today will convince you it's all in your mind.

♑ Capricorn Dec. 22-Jan. 20 Doors that were closed to you in the past are open to you now — so what's the catch? There isn't one.

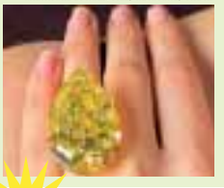
♒ Aquarius Jan. 21-Feb. 18 You won't get all that you ask for today. But it'll be enough to keep you moving towards your goal.

♓ Pisces Feb. 19-March 20. The planets are protecting you now, take a few risks because they are sure to pay off. **SALLY BROMPTON**

Caption contest

JOHN GOMES, ALASKA ZOO/ THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

SALVATORE DI NOLF, FILE/ KEYSTONE/ THE AP



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You write it!

Write a funny caption for the image above and send it to play@metronews.ca — the winning caption will be published in tomorrow's Metro.

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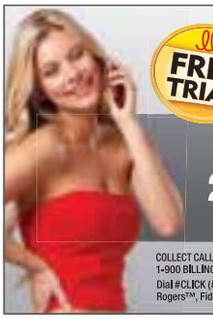

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